

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. **(Currently amended)** An isolated nucleic acid comprising a sequence encoding a polypeptide having galacturonosyltransferase (GALAT1) activity, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence identical to or comprises a sequence with at least 95% ~~50%~~ amino acid sequence similarity with the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 and wherein the galacturonosyltransferase catalyzes transfer of galacturonosyl residues to an oligomer of galacturonic acid residues, and a transcription regulatory sequence, wherein said sequence encoding the polypeptide and the transcription regulatory sequence are operably linked, and wherein said sequences are not associated together in nature.

2-3. **(Canceled)**

4. **(Previously Presented)** The nucleic acid of claim 1 wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The nucleic acid of claim 4 wherein the nucleic acid comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

6-10. **(Canceled)**

11. **(Previously Presented)** An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the transcription regulatory sequence is a promoter that functions in plants.

12. **(Canceled)**

13. **(Previously presented)** A transgenic plant which has been transformed with the expression vector of claim 11.

14-15. **(Canceled)**

16. **(Previously presented)** Progeny of the transgenic plant of claim 13, wherein said progeny comprises the nucleic acid of claim 1.

17-26. **(Canceled)**